

The Chair, Jack Steiner at 7:00pm called the regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting to order. Those present included George Lagassa, Lloyd Sullivan (Selectman), and Russell McAllister (Town Administrator).

The Selectmen reviewed the meeting minutes of January 8th, 2000. Mr. Sullivan made the motion to accept the minutes of January 8th, 2000. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

- a. Administration/Business
- b. Payroll
- c. Manifest
- a. Appointments (PB / Bandstand / Police) signatures required
- b. Cemetery Deed
- c. Land Use Change Tax & Warrant
- d. Property Tax Refund
- e. CDBG Manifest
- f. Coakley Minutes
- g. Cleaning Bid

The Board opened the cleaning bids (cleaning services for the Town Offices and the Police station). Two bids were received were from Cleaning Force and Consider it Clean. The bid amounts were \$120 and \$125 per week. The bid from Cleaning Force while less also included cleaning 3 times per week versus once per week by Consider it Clean. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to award the bid to Cleaning Force. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The Police Chief (Brian Page) introduced the two new hires in the Police Department. Both David Pridham and Scott Stephens came from the Rollinsford Police Department. Mr. Stephens is a full-time certified. Mr. Pridham was a part-time officer from Rollinsford who will be attending the police academy in the near future to become a full-time certified. The Board welcomed the new hires to the applause of those in the audience.

Robert Neville - 7:20pm CANCELLED

- a. *A presentation by and invitation to participate in an EPA case study program.*

Mr. Steiner asked the TA for a brief synopsis of Mr. Neville's proposal. The TA explained that it was his understanding that the EPA was rewriting its NPDES rules for non-point source pollution. As part of that policy process the EPA was interested in soliciting input from two towns for use as a case study as they formulated new rules for the NPDES permitting process. North Hampton and Chicopee, MA were two towns the EPA was interested in having included in the process. The two towns represented two ends of the spectrum. Chicopee was a town that was "built out", while North Hampton was on the threshold of becoming "built out". Therefore, the new rules would impact each community differently from the perspective of cost. The costs for Chicopee would largely entail mitigating existing problems. North Hampton costs under the new NPDES rules would probably go towards prevention of potential problems. The TA conjectured that the EPA would calculate the difference in cost between prevention and mitigation as part of a cost benefit analysis in the rule making process.

Selectmen Issues - 8:00pm

a. Change in agenda venue

Mr. Sullivan suggested that the Board change the order in which business was conducted. Mr. Sullivan suggested that the business part of the meeting be placed at the end of the meeting so that those individuals on the agenda didn't have to wait until after the business portion. Mr. Lagassa noted that the School Board followed just such an agenda. The Board agreed to change the order of the meeting. The TA agreed to rearrange the order beginning with the next meeting.

b. Performance Reviews

Mr. Sullivan addressed the issue of performance reviews of Department heads noting that the Board of Selectmen had previously conducted them prior to the TA being hired. He suggested that the Board return to that format. Mr. Sullivan noted that there were not that many employees so the task would not be onerous. Mr. Steiner explained that just as department heads were responsible for performance reviews within their departments, department heads themselves were in turn reviewed by their supervisor, which in this case was the TA. Mr. Lagassa reasoned that it made sense to use the Chief Administrator's skills and expertise in this area. Mr. Lagassa suggested that a more defined review process may prove beneficial and he conceded that ultimately the Board needed to be involved. Mr. Sullivan agreed that the TA should have input into the process, but the Board should be more involved.

Questions & Comments

It was noted that the recent Supreme Court opinion on the required votes (2/3 versus 3/5) maintained that Town's using the SB-2 style of voting required 3/5 majority to pass a bond issue. Regular Town Meeting municipalities were required to have a 2/3 vote to pass a bond issue.

The recent Superior Court ruling declaring the statewide property tax unconstitutional while clearly a victory for the donor town's, still required a Supreme Court decision to determine the actual outcome.

Ms. Jenifer Landman commented that the Heritage Commission walking tour brochure was shortly going to the printers. Approximately 5,000 brochures would be printed. The Heritage Commission reasoned that enough copies be made so that there would be at least one per resident with a few leftovers for larger groups for further distribution.

Mr. Bob Landman briefed the Board on the status of high-speed telecommunications with the recent exit by Vitti networks from the market. There was also some discussion about the introduction of when broadband access would be available in North Hampton.

Mr. Sullivan spoke of the telecommunications tower and the lack of access to the property for the facility. It was noted that individual Board members had each attempted to speak with landowners abutting the property for the tower facility regarding access. Mr. Sullivan suggested that it was time for the Board to pass it to the tower folks to work on. The TA noted that no formal award of the bid had been made to date. Mr. Sullivan made the motion to award the contract to American Tower. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

There being no further business to come before the Board the public meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00pm. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to convene in non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) to discuss personnel issues. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

Respectfully,
Russell McAllister
Town Administrator